United Nations A/AC.109/2002/1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 March 2002

Original: English

Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories, to be held at Nadi, Fiji, from 14 to 16 May 2002

Guidelines and rules of procedure

Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
I.	Introduction	1–3	2
II.	Place and dates of the Seminar	4	2
III.	Purpose of the Seminar	5–8	2
IV.	Agenda of the Seminar	9	3
V.	Organization of the Seminar	10	5
Annex			
	Rules of procedure		6

02-29966 (E) 250302

I. Introduction

1. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and a plan of action aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism, in which, inter alia, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was requested to organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

2. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, declaring the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. In paragraph 2 of the resolution, the General Assembly called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action, as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second Decade. The updated plan of action is contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General (A/56/61).

3. In its resolution 56/74 of 10 December 2001, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2002, including the holding of a seminar in the Pacific region to be organized by the Committee and attended by the representatives of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

II. Place and dates of the Seminar

4. The Pacific Regional Seminar will be held at Nadi, Fiji, from 14 to 16 May 2002.

III. Purpose of the Seminar

5. The purpose of the Seminar is to assess the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular their constitutional evolution towards self-determination in order to facilitate the development by the Special Committee of a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Seminar will also identify areas in which the international community could increase and enhance its participation in programmes of assistance and adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to ensuring the political and sustainable socio-economic development of the Territories concerned.

6. The topics to be considered by the Seminar will assist the Special Committee and the participants in making a realistic evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Seminar will give pre-eminence to a broad range of views of the peoples of those Territories. It will also secure the participation of organizations and institutions that are actively involved in the political, economic

and social development of those Territories and of selected non-governmental organizations with long and established experience in island Territories.

7. The contributions of the participants will serve as a basis for the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar, which will be carefully studied by the Special Committee with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2001-2010).

8. Participants will be required to submit papers, which may include conclusions and recommendations/suggestions on the topics specified in the agenda as they pertain to Non-Self-Governing Territories on the list of the Special Committee.

IV. Agenda of the Seminar

9. The agenda of the Seminar is as follows:

1. Strategies for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:

   Action to implement the goals of the Second International Decade including the Plan of Action, as well as the relevant United Nations resolutions;

2. Role of the administering Powers under Charter of the United Nations and United Nations resolutions related to decolonization:

   (a) Ensuring the development of self-government by the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration;

   (b) Developing, in cooperation with the Special Committee on a case-by-case basis, and with the participation of the peoples of the Territories, work programmes aimed at implementing the process of decolonization;

   (c) Cooperating with the Special Committee, and with the participation of the peoples of the Territories, in ensuring the successful and verifiable implementation of work programmes for the Territories;

3. Role of the Special Committee in facilitating the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories:

   (a) Analysis of criteria and indicators of self-government in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions;

   (b) Strengthening and improving cooperation with administering Powers with a view to developing work programmes for the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis;

   (c) Monitoring progress in the implementation of United Nations resolutions on decolonization and the agreed work programmes for specific Territories;

   (d) Developing education programmes for specific Territories on the options available to them in the exercise of their right of self-

determination in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV);

(e) Carrying out visiting missions to the Territories as an important consultation and information-gathering tool to implement the Committee's decolonization mandate;

(f) Promoting the dissemination of information on decolonization and on the role of the United Nations to the populations of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

4. Development strategies for strengthening assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the United Nations system:

(a) Assessing existing mandates and the extent of assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories provided by the specialized agencies and United Nations programmes;

(b) Promoting the improvement and increase of the level of assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and United Nations programmes.

5. Recent political, legal and economic developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular in the Pacific region:

(a) Political, constitutional and legal developments;

(b) Economic and financial situation: impact of globalization on the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular on the financial services sector;

(c) Views of the participants on the use of military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the impact of military activities on the environment, economic development and health of the population;

(d) Concrete steps required in the short, medium and long term, for the achievement of self-determination in the Territories in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV).

6. Socio-economic and environmental conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories:

(a) Social conditions in the Territories (namely, education, health and labour);

(b) Effects of migration to and from the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(c) Rights of indigenous peoples;

(d) Land issues;

(e) Protection of the right of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to ownership, control and disposal of their natural wealth and resources, including marine resources pursuant to resolutions of the General Assembly, the Convention on the Law of the Sea and other international conventions;

(f) Environmental and climate issues, including the impact of natural disasters and the need for disaster preparedness.

V. Organization of the Seminar

10. The following provisions will govern the organization of the Seminar:

(a) The Seminar will be organized by the Special Committee in accordance with the rules of procedure contained in the annex to the present guidelines;

(b) The Seminar will be conducted by a delegation of the Special Committee consisting of the Chairman, members of the Bureau and five other members representing each of the regional geographic groups within the Special Committee;

(c) The Seminar may be attended by the following:

(i) Representatives of the Member States;

(ii) Representatives of the host Government;

(iii) Representatives of the administering Powers;

(iv) Representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(v) A representative of the Secretary-General;

(vi) Representatives of concerned specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system;

(vii) Representatives of the non-governmental organizations based in the region and the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(viii) Experts on Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Annex

Rules of procedure

Preamble

The Pacific Regional Seminar is being held under the terms of General Assembly resolutions 46/181 of 19 December 1991 and 55/146 of 8 December 2000. The organization of the Seminar and the conduct of its proceedings shall follow the general guidelines set out in the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.[a]

Rule 1
Responsibility for conducting the Seminar

The Seminar shall be organized by the Special Committee and conducted by the Chairman of the Special Committee, as the Chairman, with the assistance of the Bureau of the Seminar (see rule 2 (a) below).

Rule 2
Officers of the Seminar

(a) The Chairman shall appoint three Vice-Chairmen, a Rapporteur and a Chairman of the Drafting Group of the Seminar from among the participating members of the Special Committee. These officers shall be given specific responsibilities by the Chairman and shall constitute the Bureau of the Seminar;

(b) The Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Seminar, direct its discussions, ensure observance of the present rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions;

(c) If the Chairman is unable to be present at a meeting or any part thereof, a Vice-Chairman shall preside over the meeting.

Rule 3
Secretariat

(a) The secretariat of the Special Committee shall service the Seminar;

(b) The secretariat shall be responsible for all necessary arrangements regarding the organization of the Seminar.

Rule 4
Languages

The working language of the Seminar shall be English.

Rule 5
Conduct of business

(a) Decisions shall, as a rule, be taken by consensus. Should a vote be required, only representatives of the Special Committee attending the Seminar shall be entitled to vote;

(b) Any procedural question with regard to the conduct of business of the Seminar not covered by the present rules shall be decided upon by the Chairman in consultation with the Bureau of the Seminar.

Rule 6
Participation in the Seminar

Participation in the Seminar shall be restricted to the persons to whom formal invitations have been addressed by the Chairman of the Special Committee in accordance with the related decision of the General Assembly[b] and whose names appear on the official list of participants drawn up by the Chairman (see also para. 6 of the guidelines).

Rule 7
Debates and publicity concerning the Seminar

(a) The meetings of the Seminar shall be held in public unless the Chairman decides that exceptional circumstances require that the meeting be held in private;

(b) Statements on behalf of the Seminar to the information media shall be made by the Chairman. The Department of Public Information of the secretariat shall be responsible for the dissemination of information on the Seminar, including the issuance of press releases covering meetings of the Seminar held in public;

(c) Participating non-governmental organizations shall be represented by the person so invited (see rule 6 above), who may make one general statement on issues within the purview of the Committee' s mandate and pertaining to those Territories under its consideration during the course of the Seminar;

(d) The Chairman may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker;

(e) During the course of the discussion, the Chairman may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Seminar, declare the list closed. When there are no speakers, the Chairman shall, with the consent of the Seminar, declare the debate closed.

Rule 8
Records

The Seminar shall have sound recordings of its proceedings, which shall be retained in the archives of the United Nations in accordance with established practice.

Rule 9
Report

The members of the Special Committee attending the Seminar shall present a report on the Seminar, the draft of which shall be prepared by the Rapporteur of the Seminar. The Seminar shall entrust to the Chairman of the Special Committee the task of preparing the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar on the basis of the information contained in the report. The Chairman shall appoint a drafting group, chaired by one of the members of the delegation of the Special Committee, to assist him in preparing the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar. The report of the Seminar, containing draft conclusions and recommendations prepared by the Chairman, shall be submitted to the Special Committee for its consideration and subsequent submission to the appropriate bodies.

Notes

[a] A/520/Rev.15 and Amend.1.

[b] See A/56/61, annex, para. 22 (c).